

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier listings and all earlier versions.

1. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image bearing member; and
a plurality of optical boxes, each of said optical boxes containing at least:
a light source;
deflecting means for deflecting light emitted from said light source;
and
a lens, arranged to image light deflected by said deflecting means
onto said image bearing member,
wherein one of said plurality of optical boxes is stacked directly on and in
contact with a second one of said plurality of optical boxes.

2. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to
Claim 1, wherein said one optical box has a positioning portion for receiving said second
of said optical box boxes to form a stack.

3. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to
Claim 1, wherein said one optical box and said second optical box are fixed to each other
by an elastic member, or by adhering or welding.

4. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to
Claim 1, wherein said one optical box has an engaging portion for engaging with said
second optical box.

5. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to
Claim 4, wherein said engaging portion has a notch portion.

6. and 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to
Claim 1, wherein said one optical box has an engaging portion for engaging with a main
body of said apparatus.

9. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 8,
wherein said engaging portion has a notch portion.

10. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to
Claim 1, comprising a plurality of image bearing members corresponding respectively to
said plurality of optical boxes.

11. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to
Claim [[11]] 10, wherein an interval between said one optical box and said second optical
box is equal to an interval between two of said image bearing members.

12. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to
Claim 1, wherein said optical boxes correspond respectively to a plurality of images having
different colors.